

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03
DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00
PRS-01 DODE-00 /057 W

----- 089897 /17

R 211515Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1706
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3570

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, BE
SUBJECT: WALK-IN AT BELGIAN EMBASSY

REF PRAGUE 3414, BRUSSELS 11552

1. BELGAIN AMBASSADOR D'AVERNAS LEFT PRAGUE DECEMBER 18 ON COMPLETION OF TOUR HERE. SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTURE HE TOLD AMBASSADOR BYRNE THAT REFUGEE MIROSLAV POLEHLA IS STILL IN BELGIAN RESIDENCE. THIS CONTRADICTS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN PRESS CIRCLES THAT POLEHLA HAD LEFT AFTER HEAVY, OVERT POLICE SURVEILLANCE OF RESIDENCE WAS WITHDRAWN.

2. D'AVERNAS SAID BELGIAN MFA IS SENDING TO PRAGUE AN EXPERT ON REFUGEE CASES--BARON DE SELYS DE FANSON--AS CHARGE A.I. TO TRY TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. D'AVERNAS REMAINS CONVINCED THAT POLEHLA IS SINCERE AND LEGITIMATE POLITICAL REFUGEE.

3. WE ARE BEING CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR IN ANY WAY INVOLVED. EMBASSY STAFF HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO COMMENT ON CASE TO ANYONE OUTSIDE EMBASSY. WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO AVOID ANY BREACH OF CONFIDENCE WITH AMBASSADOR D'AVERNAS, WHO STRONGLY EMPHASIZES THAT BRUSSELS BELIEVES THE ONLY WAY THIS CASE WILL EVER BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED IS THROUGH DISCREET GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
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NEGOTIATIONS AND AVOIDANCE OF ANY LEAKS OF INFORMATION.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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